Leicester, June 10. 1846.

My dear Sir,

The "Daily Star" of the 4th came to hand yesterday. I perceive you have lifted your voice, as of course you would do, against this wicked and aggressive war on Mexico. The Editor, a writer of the Comments on your article, is evidently an unprincipled man; and so loose in his statements of fact, and so false in his assertions, as to afford a grand opportunity to you to use him up, so far as argument can do it. I am sorry to see such a list of names in Syracuse to the call for a war-meeting? Do the ministers of the place generally speak about this war, like men? I presume not. They are awfully tame & servile hereabouts. Whether there is the most to dishearten a man in the politicians or in the religionists of this county, is a question which I am at a loss to decide. The corruption of both is intense; their moral cowardice is fearful, & their pandering to a depraved public sentiment is revolting to the last degree. Wo - wo to the scribes and the lawyers, hypocrites, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel; who shut up the kingdom of heaven against men, and will neither go in themselves, nor suffer those, who would enter, to go in. "Fill ye up then" said Jesus to a priesthood & nation assuredly not more corrupt than ours "the measure of your fathers". And this is what, as I look at it, our country has long

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been doing, and now is bringing rapidly to its consummation. Our fathers made a wicked covenant with the supporters of the greatest wrongs man can inflict on his fellow-man; with an occasional protest, and some faint misgivings in the public mind, they have since been basely fulfilling their part of the wicked bargain, scorning the principle —

"It is a sin, to swear into a sin,
But greater sin, to keep a sinful oath," —

till it seems that, now, naught is left but that those righteous retributions of God "which do not sleep forever" should visit us — and surely that visitation will be a fearful one. Madly, yes insanely, and ~~suicidally~~ stupidly our people rush into this war, led on by corrupt and unprincipled men, the end whereof who shall tell? I believe it will not be soon seen. What will 3 millions of Slaves do in a general war?

My dear sir, I have heard from you repeatedly, in an indirect manner during the past 8 months; but directly, not once. I know you are, & must be, constantly occupied, with large demands, from within & from without your Society, pressing upon you. I wrote you a long letter, about the 1st of October last, soon after my return from the Dedication at Brooklyn, giving you an account of the services there and of the nature of the alteration in your old Meetinghouse — a house closely associated in my own mind with some of my

deepest & most vivid experiences. — I have been to B. once since, on an exchange with Br. Snow, who seems to be exerting himself in behalf of his people; but I think he is not just the man they need.

I deeply regretted, as did some others, that you were not in Boston anniversary week. It was a great week; highly auspicious as regards the prospects of a living faith in our own denomination, very encouraging to those who have been laboring to arouse them, and very distasteful & vexatious to those who have long determined that Unit.m. sh.d. not be aroused. In the coolest, quietest way I could, in an interval of business, I asked the A. U. A. to appoint a Committee to reply to the recent letter of the "Irish Unitarian Xn. Society" — Parkman, Gannett, Ellis & others were excessively angry at this. Mr. Gannett made a personal onset on me in the meeting, and afterwards, in walking thro' Washington St., scolded me most bitterly for vexing them with this question of Slavery year after year — said I "insulted" them every time I did it — said I was "doing more mischief than any man in Massachusetts", &c. &c. I believe I never before saw Dr. Parkman so angry as to be off his ground. "Send a reply from the Unit.n. Association to a letter about Slavery" said he, "it shall not be, it shall not be." Here was let out the spirit of dictation which has ruled the A. U. A. so long. This remark of Dr. P.'s was made in the hearing of a number besides myself; and, as it was not at all private, I repeated it at a subsequent meetg. of the Assoc.n; in his presence, not mentioning any name; but he immediately jumped up. & said it was only a rhetorical expression, &c. I replied I never heard any remark made with an appearance of more real, fixed determination. It was even, as he said. The Assoc.n refused to act about the letter. But about 30 of the brethren, clerical & lay, formed a meeting, chose a comte. of 10 to reply, &

whom A. P. Peabody is Chairman, & will draft the letter. This is not a very great matter in itself, but as having developed ~~some~~ the views & feelings of some of our great men is somewhat curious.

You have seen T. Parker's resolution, introduced into the Berry Street Conference, about Slavery & this War;— very strong, supported in ~~an~~ an able speech from him, & remarks from several others, and ~~adopted~~ with one hand only raised in the negative — meeting quite large —The public meeting of the A. U. A. was, out of sight, & in advance of all previous ones. The Speeches of J. A. Andrew, W. H. Channing and G. S. Hillard, were most glorious; ~~the~~ last two seemed inspired. The report of their speeches gives but a poor idea — to me at least — of their eloquence, and effect.

The N. E. Anti Slavery Convention — as unanimously large one — was bold & faithfull, of course. The Am. Peace Society had a pretty good public meeting; but at their meeting next morning, as I heard, refused to take any stand against this war with Mexico, or to point out the duties of our community respecting it. Such a Peace Society (!) does more to bring contempt on the cause than all its enemies can.

On the 22d May I sent a letter to my Society, renewing the request for dismission made one year previously. The ground I took was that the Society, as a body, had not fulfilled the understood conditions of our renewed Connexion. For this, I know of no blame resting on any one save Isaac Southgate. There has been, in them, a want of proper attendance at meeting, & support of the Sunday School, &c. but I attribute it to habit more than design. I have the fullest reason to believe that the most of the Society — indeed all but all — regret my purpose; but I think it best for them that I should go. How it will be for myself, time must show. — My family are about as usual. Our love to you and all yours. I could write much more, but my time gives out, not to say your patience.

Most affectionately, Yours, Samuel May.

MS. A. C. I. 23